

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Dual-Lite Manufacturing Inc.

Puerto Rico Manufacturing Extension Inc

Dual-Lite Uses Lean Concepts To Improve Productivity

Client Profile:

Dual-Lite Manufacturing, Inc., a subsidiary of Hubbell Lighting, Inc., is a manufacturer of emergency lights and signs. The company, located in Naguabo, Puerto Rico, currently employs 234 people.

Situation:

Dual-Lite recently made space for new product lines by expanding operations to an additional facility. Company managers wanted to take advantage of the transition to implement lean techniques focused on increasing productivity. One conveyor-equipped assembly line especially tended to build up considerable work-in-process (WIP) inventory. After several Dual-Lite managers attended a series of lean workshops hosted by Puerto Rico Manufacturing Extension, Inc. (PRiMEX), a NIST MEP network affiliate, they decided to ask PRiMEX to lead the company's lean initiative.

Solution:

PRiMEX toured the facilities and recommended the creation of a manufacturing cell on the troubled assembly line. Dual-Lite selected a team of nine employees to work with PRiMEX on the implementation project. PRiMEX discussed lean concepts--such as takt time, point-of-use storage, workstation design, line balancing, and process layout--and led the Dual-Lite team through the design and set-up of a manufacturing cell. Once the cell was in operation, the company began to notice immediate savings in cycle time and labor requirements. Based on the success of this project, Dual-Lite plans to apply the cell format to another product line at the plant.

Results:

Reduced labor requirements by 38 percent.
Decreased total cycle time from 8.3 minutes to 3.5 minutes.
Reclaimed 819 square feet of usable manufacturing floor space.
Reduced WIP inventory and overhead costs.

Testimonial:

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